

Speaker Registration/Testimony

2017 JUN -6 AM 7:27
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CITY OF HONOLULU

Name Kathy Whitmire
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 Meeting Date 06-07-2017
 Council/PH Committee Council
 Agenda Item Bill 23
 Your position on the matter Support
 Representing Organization
 Organization The Outdoor Circle
 Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written Testimony

I want to commend the City Council for unanimously approving Bill 23 on May 10 and urge you to continue that support by overriding the Mayor's veto of Bill 23. As co-chair of the Public Affairs Committee of The Outdoor Circle, I strongly support Bill 23 because it provides for permanently dedicating parkland within the City and County of Honolulu for the public to use as open space and for recreational activities. It will prevent the potential conversion of public parks into revenue-generating entertainment facilities.

Public parks must be available to all residents and visitors. The dedication of park space is a benefit to the citizens of our community today and a legacy we leave to future generations.

The Mayor's veto message acknowledges the historical significance of Thomas Square as the first public park in Hawaii and the important role it has played in Hawaiian history. Given this, it would be unacceptable to remove Thomas Square from the Honolulu parks system and convert it to an enterprise whose primary purpose is revenue generation. Bill 23 will ensure that this does not happen.

The Outdoor Circle has a long history of advocating for public parks and open spaces. We find Bill 23 to be consistent with these goals and urge you to uphold its passage.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement

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MISC. COM. 3068

COUNCIL¹

6/6/2017